
The Rural District Council
of Gainsborough



REPORT
OF THE
Medical Officer of Health



For the Year
1948

Gainsborough Rural District Council



Chairman :

J. J. ALLEN, J.P.....Scotton.

Vice-Chairman :

A. SMITHSON.....Morton.

Clerk of the Council :

EDGAR A. DONSON.....R. D. Council Offices,
17, Morley Street,
Gainsborough.



Staff of Public Health Department :

Medical Officer of Health....Dr. J. C. MACARTNEY,
M.D. (Edin.), D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector.....E. DONELLY,
A.I.S.E., C.R.S.I.

Gainsborough Rural District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the Year 1948.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
GAINSBOROUGH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

12th August, 1949.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report for the year 1948. The population has increased by 460. The Birth Rate is higher and the Death Rate shows a marked reduction. Infantile Mortality Rate was exceptionally low compared with other areas and, as far as I am aware, it reaches the lowest level ever recorded in this district.

Infectious Disease incidence was low and there has been no case of Diphtheria for two years.

The statistics concerning the above are pleasing indications of the satisfactory state of the health of the district during the year.

In conclusion I am grateful to have had the valuable and willing co-operation from the Council's officials and staffs. I also wish to thank the Council for their helpful consideration of Public Health matters.

Yours very faithfully,

J. C. MACARTNEY,

M.D. (Edin.), D.P.H.

SECTION A.

1. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area of the Rural District	78,598 acres
Estimated Population	10,920
Rateable Value on the 31st March, 1948	£38,766
Sum represented by 1d. Rate	£154

The district is entirely rural in character and the sole industry is agriculture. It surrounds the Urban District of Gainsborough on three sides. The Northern and Southern extremities are seventeen miles apart and the greatest width is eleven miles. Parts of the Parishes of Lea and Morton, adjoining Gainsborough town, are semi-residential. There are thirty-seven parishes and the Council consists of thirty-two Councillors.

2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

	Male	Female	Total
Live Births	129	113	242
Legitimate	123	108	231
Illegitimate	6	5	11
Still Births	4	6	10

Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population 22.16

	Male	Female	Total
DEATHS. All causes	63	56	119

Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated population 10.8

DEATHS. Infants under 1 year.

Male	Female	Total
3	4	7

Infantile Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births) 28.9

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Disease	Male	Female	Total
Whooping Cough	—	1	1
Respiratory Tuberculosis	1	2	3
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	—	1	1
Cancer	15	6	21
Diabetes	1	—	1
Intracranial Vascular Lesions	6	9	15
Heart Disease	18	18	36
Other Circulatory Diseases	2	1	3
Bronchitis	3	—	3
Pneumonia	2	1	3
Other Respiratory Diseases	1	1	2
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	1	2
Appendicitis	1	—	1
Other Digestive Diseases	2	2	4
Nephritis	1	—	1

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Disease	Male	Female	Total
Premature Birth	1	2	3
Congenital Malformation, etc.	2	1	3
Other Maternal Causes	—	2	2
Road Traffic Accidents	1	—	1
Violent Causes	1	2	3
All Other Causes	4	6	10
	63	56	119

CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS.

Disease	Male	Female	Total
Pneumonia	—	1	1
Premature Birth	1	2	3
Congenital Causes	2	1	3
	3	4	7

COMPARATIVE TABLES.

Births.				†Birth
Year	Male	Female	Total	Rate
1948	129	113	242	22.16
1947	107	105	212	20.26
1946	111	95	206	18.18
1945	88	111	199	19.70
Deaths:				†Death
Year	Male	Female	Total	Rate
1948	63	56	119	10.8
1947	72	59	131	12.52
1946	53	56	109	10.5
1945	69	56	125	12.3

Infantile Mortality:

Year	‡Rate
1948	28.9
1947	33.0
1946	29.1
1945	42.0

	†Birth Rate	†Death Rate	‡Infant Mortality
England and Wales	17.9	10.8	34
126 Great Towns	20.0	11.6	39
148 Smaller Town	19.2	10.7	32
London	20.1	11.6	31
Gainsborough Rural District ...	22.16	10.8	28.9

† Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.

‡ Rates per 1,000 Live Births.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

A. SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

Health Information:

Enquiries relating to local health services may be made of the Medical Officer of Health, 10/12, Lord Street, Gainsborough.

County Medical Officer: Dr. W. S. H. Campbell, O.B.E.

Health Centres:

Until these centres are available, doctors, dentists and pharmacists will continue to practise at their own premises.

Maternity Service:

The following are amongst the provision made:

Midwives.

Ante and Post Natal Clinics.

Maternity Home and Hospital.

Maternity Outfits.

Care and Accommodation of Unmarried Mothers.

Dental Treatment.

Child Care:

Infant Welfare Centres. Doctors and Nurses attend here to advise parents on all matters relating to the health and welfare of children up to 5 years of age.

Dental Inspection.

Dental Treatment.

Welfare Foods.

Care of Premature Infants.

Day Nurseries.

School Clinics.

School Medical Inspection. Children attending maintained schools are examined as a routine three times during their school lives; on entry, in the last year of attendance at the Primary School and in their last year at School. Defects or conditions requiring attention are notified to the parents who are invited to be present at the examination.

Consultations and Specialist Treatment.

Speech Defects. Training and Treatment arranged for.

Home Nursing.

Health Visitors:

To advise on the care of children, nursing mothers, the prevention of the spread of infection and on health matters generally.

Sick Room Requisites, Appliances and other Equipment.

Home Helps:

For maternity cases during the lying-in period and where help is required in the case of the sick or aged. A charge is made for this service based on the family income.

Vaccination and Immunisation:

Parents may have their children vaccinated against small-pox and immunised against diphtheria free of charge.

Mental Health:

Mental Illness—Treatment will be arranged in conjunction with the Regional Hospital Board. Supervision and after-care will be carried out by specially trained workers employed by the County Council.

Mental Defectives—Arrangements made for institutional care. The County Council are responsible for the care and supervision of mental defectives in their own homes.

Ambulance Service:

A very highly efficient service now operates in the area for all varieties of requirements.

B. SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE LOCAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

GENERAL MEDICAL CARE.

THE FAMILY DOCTOR.

SPECIAL MATERNITY SERVICES APART FROM THE LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY SERVICE (General Practitioner Obstetrician).

MEDICINES, DRUGS AND APPLIANCES.

DENTISTRY.

SUPPLEMENTARY EYE SERVICE.

Address of Executive Committee: Stonebow, Lincoln.

C. SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.

HOSPITAL AND SPECIALIST SERVICES. All forms of treatment in general or special hospitals are available, both in-patient and out-patient treatment. This includes sanatorium treatment, maternity care, care of mental health and surgical operations. Consultants and specialists are available as far as resources permit.

SECTION C.**WATER SUPPLY.**

- (i) The water supplied by the Council is derived from the following sources and during the year was satisfactory both in quality and quantity:—
- (1) Council's own boreholes at Glenham and Caenby, west of the Lincolnshire Wolds.
 - (2) Bulk supply from Lincoln Corporation, the supply being derived from boreholes at Elkesley in Nottinghamshire.
 - (3) Bulk supply from Glanford Brigg Rural District Council for the hamlet of Susworth only (i.e., 35 properties in the Scotter Parish).

(ii) Samples for Bacteriological and Chemical examinations were taken periodically and the results were satisfactory.

(iii) The water has no plumbo-solvent action.

(iv) No action was necessary in respect of any form of contamination as no adverse reports were received.

(v)

HOUSES.

Parish.	Total No.	No. with piped supplies.
Blyborough	43	28
Blyton	238	171
Brampton	25	21
Corringham	123	87
East Ferry	44	27
East Stockwith	97	37
Fenton	75	29
Fillingham	65	32
Gate Burton	22	20
Glentworth	78	44
Grayingham	32	19
Hardwick	Supplied by Lincoln Corporation	
Harpwell	21	16
Heapham	35	28
Hemswell	93	81
Kettlethorpe	47	41
Kexby	106	94
Knaith	48	47
Laughton	62	22
Lea	177	170
Marton	117	85
Morton	Supplied by Gainsborough U.D.C.	
Newton-on-Trent	71	60
Northorpe	53	30
Pilham	16	8
Scotter	312	270
Scotton	79	58
Springthorpe	41	39
Stow	104	52
Sturton-by-Stow	171	41
Thonock	21	—
Torksey	50	22
Upton	57	34
Walkerith	22	19
Wildsworth	29	23
Willingham	126	69
Willoughton	140	113
Totals ...	2840	1937

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

There are no sewage disposal works in the rural district, apart from those serving three R.A.F. Stations, and no parishes have modern sewerage systems.

The Council have carefully considered the question of Sewerage and Sewage Disposal for the whole rural district and decided to proceed with work as soon as possible, giving priority for four schemes dealing with six parishes (viz: Blyton, Lea and Knaith Park, Morton, Scotter and Scotton).

A Ministry of Health Inspector conducted a public enquiry into the four schemes in July, 1948. Grants have been offered by the Ministry and the schemes are now before the County Council whose decision concerning grants is awaited.

REFUSE COLLECTION, SCAVENGING.

On 1st April the Council commenced a direct labour house refuse removal service in the twelve largest parishes in the district, namely: Blyton, Corringham, Hemswell, Knaith, Lea, Marton, Scotter, Scotton, Stow, Sturton-by-Stow, Willingham and Willoughton. There has also been a refuse collection and scavenging service in Morton for many years. Two-thirds of the houses in the district are served by these two schemes. The Council have in view the extension of the service to the remainder of the rural district. A modern refuse collection vehicle has been purchased and another such is to be provided.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

1. Inspections of dwellinghouses during the year numbered 183.
2. 135 defective houses were rendered habitable in all respects.
3. New Houses. 59 new houses were completed during the year, 40 by the Council and 19 by private enterprise. 15 more additional units of family accommodation were provided by private enterprise as a result of the conversion and alteration of existing properties. 60 further new houses were under construction in the district at the end of the year.

Progress in post-war housing is showing its effect in the relief of the pressure on existing accommodation. At the end of the year the number of applicants for council houses had fallen to 250, of which approximately 100 were applicants without separate homes.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Routine inspections by the Sanitary Inspector were made of shops, stalls, vehicles, and food preparing places. Cowsheds, dairies, and milkshops were also kept under supervision. Slaughtering is now carried out at a central abattoir where the necessary inspection of meat takes place. The Public ought to be more conscious of the dangerous risks which are inevitable in these times of shortages, when people are eating all sorts of prepared and made-up articles. Also communal feeding places may easily be supervised by persons with little or no knowledge of hygiene. Posters and leaflets, offering advice on the subject of cleanliness of persons and premises having regard to food-poisoning, are often treated with far too little seriousness. Much can be done by way of polite and tactfully made communications which would be helpful. The Sanitary Inspector, already having many onerous tasks to carry out, is urged to spare no efforts in the directions indicated. Therefore, it is to be hoped, that, with increasing vigilance in the future, we may be fortunate enough to avoid outbreaks of food-poisoning, which have been recognised in various parts of the country.

SECTION F.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

174 cases of infectious diseases were notified during the year, the majority of these being measles and whooping cough. It is pleasing to be able to record that there has not been one case of diphtheria since 1946.

Prior to the establishment of the National Health Service on the 5th July, patients requiring hospital treatment were admitted to Foxby Hill Isolation Hospital at Gainsborough. Since then the use of this hospital for fever cases was discontinued and those requiring isolation are now sent either to the Infectious Diseases Hospital at Lincoln or Scunthorpe.

Details of the infectious diseases are given in the following tables with reference to parishes and age groups.

DISTRIBUTION IN PARISHES.

Parish	Scarlet Fever	Measles	Whooping Cough	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Puerperal Sepsis	Malaria	Amoebic Dysentery
Blyborough ..	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Blyton	2	1	4	1	—	—	—	—	—
Brampton ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Corringham .	1	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grayingham .	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hardwick	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Heapham	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hemswell	2	4	4	3	—	—	—	—	1 Non-Civilian
Kettlethorpe .	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Laughton	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lea	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Marton	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Morton	1	2	4	—	1	—	—	—	—
Newton-on-Trent ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Northorpe ...	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scotter	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Springthorpe	—	2	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stockwith, East ...	—	1	8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Stow	—	15	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sturton-by-Stow ...	3	31	6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thonock	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Torksey	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Upton	—	—	6	—	1	—	—	8	—
Walkerith	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Willoughton .	1	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	13	71	73	4	2	1	1	8	1

AGE INCIDENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES FOR 1948.

Total Number of Notifications Received: 174.

Age	Scarlet Fever	Measles	Whooping Cough	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Puerperal Sepsis	Malaria (Sturgate Polish Camp)	Amoebic Dysentery
0—1	—	1	5	1	—	1	—	—	—
1—2	1	6	7	1	—	—	—	—	—
2—3	1	11	9	—	—	—	—	—	—
3—4	2	6	18	—	—	—	—	—	—
4—5	—	10	9	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	6	33	22	1	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	3	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
20—35	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1 Non-Civilian
35 up	—	—	1	1	2	—	—	5	—
Totals ...	13	71	73	4	2	1	1	8	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

Ages.	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—5	—	—	1	—
5—10	—	—	1	1
10—15	—	—	—	—
15—25	—	—	—	1
25—45	2	2	—	—
45—65	1	—	—	—
over 65	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	3	2	2	2 = 9

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS.

Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
M.	F.	M.	F.
1	2	—	1
Total ... 4.			

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

Part I of the Act.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises.	No. on Register.	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	40	28	Nil	Nil
Others	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total ...	40	28	Nil	Nil

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

None were found and there were no prosecutions.

Part VIII of the Act.

OUTWORK.

Sections 110 and 111 Nil

